

FLD 829

Approved For Release 2001/03/22 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0017007

# CONFIDENTIAL

## INFORMATION REPORT

**230589**

COUNTRY China

**CONFIDENTIAL**

DATE DISTR. **13 August 1948**

SUBJECT Construction of Highways by Soviet Workers in  
Chinese Communist-Controlled Areas, North  
Manchuria

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1A

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REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFO  
25X1X

1. In October 1946, the Soviet Army and the Chinese Communist Army began constructing and rebuilding highways in North Manchuria which lead into the USSR. Most of the construction work was performed by Soviet workers although some Chinese Communist troops and local inhabitants were used. Approximately 20,000 Soviet workers were engaged in highway construction between October 1946 and November 1947. These workers appeared to be prisoners but they were not POWs. 5000 Chinese Communist Army engineer troops worked on the highway from Heiho (127-31,50-15) to Tsitsihar (123-57,47-22).
2. The former Japanese military highway between Tsitsihar and Ust Urov (120-46, 52-12) was completely repaired in November 1947, after one year of work. This road is well constructed, particularly in the Hsingan Mountain range. The road is gravel surfaced and in some places is wide enough to permit four 6x6 trucks to pass.
3. The highway between Blagoveshchensk (127-30,50-15), Heiho and Tsitsihar was completed in November 1947. This road is also gravel surfaced.
4. During the period from October 1946 to November 1947, the highways were being used to transport lumber from the Hsingan Mountain range and ore (type unstated) from North Manchuria to the USSR. 6x6 trucks (not stated if American or Soviet made) were used to transport both the lumber and the ore. At least 7000 truck loads of lumber were sent to the USSR during this period, while about 900 truck loads of ore were transported over these highways to the USSR.

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Date: 4 MAY 1978 By: 28